

a plurality of base stations that transmit information packets periodically at each of defined intervals;

the plurality of roaming data collection terminals and the plurality of base stations each having wireless transceivers; and

each of said roaming data collection terminals selectively deactivates its wireless transceiver for a consecutive plurality of the defined intervals, and then activates its wireless transceiver to allow receiving the information packets.

39. (New) The radio frequency data communications system of claim 38, wherein each of said roaming data collection terminals attempts to synchronize activation of its wireless transceiver to receive information packets transmitted by at least one of the plurality of base stations.

40. (New) The radio frequency data communications system of claim 39, wherein the information packets transmitted by the plurality of base stations comprise pending message indications.

In the Abstract:

[Please replace the section entitled "Abstract" as follows:]

A data collection network supporting roaming terminals which may enter and exit a sleep mode to conserve power. A plurality of base stations each periodically transmit pending message indications to those roaming data collection terminals within